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SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION - KHALID AL-SHAYKH, IRAN, AND IRAQ

Block Quotes

Sunday, March 18, 2007

-- Under the title "Who will believe the Pentagon reports after today?" Mohammed Zain inquired in pro-government daily Al-Seyassah (03/18):

"All this was done by the Pakistani boy named Khalid Al-Shaykh? He planned and executed the September 11, 2001 attacks using hijacked passenger jets in the United States and planned more than 31 terrorist operations in many places and with a variety of targets? This is what the Pentagon stated in a report distributed recently alleging that the Pakistani boy confessed to all the above during a hearing in Guantanamo."

-- In progressive Arabic daily Al-Qabas Hassan Al-Issa stated under the title "Shame" (03/18):

"When the foreign media states that the terrorist Khalid Al-Shaykh Mohamed is a Kuwait-born and raised Pakistani citizen, we Kuwaitis should be ashamed and feel sorry for what happened. Our shame is greater than the government's, which could not defend itself except by repeating spent words about Khalid Al-Shaykh by saying that he is not Kuwaiti, he is Pakistani. We forget that his personality was raised and nurtured in Kuwait."

-- In conservative Arabic daily Al-Watan, under the title "God Help Us" Mubarak Al-Hajiri inquired (03/18):

"Iran's insistence on developing its nuclear program, the international community's refusal to let that happen, and the current standoff makes us fearful of what could happen to the region.... What precautionary measures have we taken to avoid being dragged into this prospective war?"

-- Under the title "Positive Developments before the Arab Summit" Dr. Shafeeq Al-Ghabra penned in moderate Arabic daily Al-Rai (03/18):

"Iraq will remain a place for conflict between the Iraqi government and the United States on one side and all those bearing arms from all segments on the other side. This struggle will be long and difficult."

-- Dr. Jalal Al-Rasheed concluded his article titled "And a Sorcerer for a Deputy Minister of Education" in moderate Arabic daily Al-Rai with the question (03/18):

"Dr. Ayad Allawi's statements on democracy in Iraq when he said that democracy is not as important as security and employment are considered extremely dangerous. If democracy is to be curtailed in Iraq, a tyrannical regime will return quickly and will follow the Saddam model; will that be good for Iraq?"

-- Under the title "Iraqi Developments" economic researcher Amer Al-Tameemi contended in pro-government daily Al-Seyassah (03/18):

"Security is of utmost importance to the Iraqis and the Americans and all those who are interested in the Iraqi affairs at the present time. It is not easy to ignore the death of 30-100 Iraqis and three to four American soldiers on a daily basis; not to mention the dozens of Iraqis or Coalition soldiers injured without any thought to ending the terror and sectarian violence."

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